

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a mobile switching center that supports a prepaid mobile communication device on a communication session;

wherein the mobile switching center connects the prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral component to provide a service to the prepaid mobile communication device during the communication session; and

wherein the mobile switching center receives a service identification associated with the service from the intelligent peripheral component; and

wherein the mobile switching center generates one or more triggered operations to a prepaid service node to send the service identification to the prepaid service node; and

wherein the mobile switching center compiles a list of a plurality of service identifications received during the communication session from one or more service nodes that provided services to the prepaid mobile communication device; and

wherein the mobile switching center later sends the list of the plurality of service identifications to the prepaid service node to facilitate calculation of an amount to bill the prepaid mobile communication device for use of the services associated with the plurality of service identifications.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the prepaid service node comprises a first service node, and wherein the intelligent peripheral component is part of a second service node.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein upon receipt of a connect resource operation from the second service node, the mobile switching center triggers a connection between the prepaid mobile communication device and the intelligent peripheral component.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the service identification is employable by the prepaid service node to calculate billing information based on use of the second service node by the prepaid mobile communication device.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the prepaid mobile communication device incurs a fee during use of the second service node; and

wherein the mobile switching center sends the service identification to the prepaid service node to facilitate a deduction of the fee from an account balance associated with the prepaid mobile communication device.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, in combination with the second service node;

wherein the second service node provides the service to the prepaid mobile communication device during the communication session; and

wherein the second service node sends the service identification to the mobile switching center to indicate involvement of the second service node on the communication session.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the mobile switching center stores an indication of the service identification for delivery to the prepaid service node upon disconnection of the communication session.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the prepaid mobile communication device sends a dialed digits value to the mobile switching center to initiate the communication session, and wherein the mobile switching center sends the dialed digits value to the prepaid service node; and

wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid service node with an indication of one or more billable activities of the communication session; and

wherein the mobile switching center sends one or more service identifications to the prepaid service node to indicate the one or more billable activities that occurred on the communication session.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, in combination with the second service node;

wherein upon registration of the prepaid mobile communication device, the mobile switching center arms one or more call triggers set to send event information to the prepaid service node; and

wherein the second service node indicates to the mobile switching center that the one or more call triggers are active for transactions with the second service node.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein upon registration of the prepaid mobile communication device, the mobile switching center arms a disconnect trigger set to send event information to the prepaid service node; and

wherein upon activation of the disconnect trigger, the mobile switching center sends a disconnect message to the prepaid service node; and

wherein the disconnect message carries to the prepaid service node one or more service identifications that are associated with one or more services that the prepaid mobile communication device received during the communication session.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the disconnect message provides an indication to the prepaid service node of a duration of a connection between the prepaid mobile communications device and the intelligent peripheral component.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein upon receipt of a call termination request from the prepaid service node, the mobile switching center sends a disconnect message to the prepaid service node to pass one or more service identifications that are associated with one or more services that the prepaid mobile communication device received during the communication session.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second service node comprises a directory assistance service node, and wherein the service identification comprises a directory assistance service identification associated with the directory assistance service node; and

wherein the prepaid mobile communication device sends a dialed digits value to the mobile switching center to initiate the communication session with the directory assistance service node, wherein the mobile switching center sends the dialed digits value to the prepaid service node; and

wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid service node with an indication of the use of the directory assistance service node by the prepaid mobile communication device; and

wherein the directory assistance service node sends the directory assistance service identification to the mobile switching center to indicate the use of the directory assistance service node by the prepaid mobile communication device; and

wherein the mobile switching center sends the directory assistance service identification to the prepaid service node to facilitate a deduction of an amount from an account balance associated with the prepaid mobile communication device based on the use of the directory assistance service node.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the service identification comprises a first service identification, and wherein the mobile switching center receives a second service identification that is associated with the prepaid service node; and

wherein the mobile switching center compares an address associated with the second service identification and a trigger destination address for a destination to send the second service identification; and

wherein the mobile switching center determines to not send the second service identification to the trigger destination address if the address associated with the second service identification is the same as the trigger destination address.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the service identification comprises a first service identification, and wherein the mobile switching center receives a request for a status of the communication session, and wherein the request comprises a second service identification; and

wherein the mobile switching center returns an indication of the status of the communication session; and

wherein the mobile switching center stores the second service identification to later send to the prepaid service node.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center employs International Telecommunication Union signaling in accordance with International Telecommunication Union standards.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:  
connecting a prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral  
component to provide one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device; and  
sending one or more service identifications in a triggered operation to a prepaid  
service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more  
services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component;

~~The method of claim 17,~~ wherein the prepaid service node comprises a first service node, and wherein the intelligent peripheral component is part of a second service node, and wherein the second service node provides the one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device during a communication session that involves the second service node; and

wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprises the steps of:

receiving, from the second service node, the one or more service identifications that indicate involvement of the second service node on the communication session; and

encountering a disconnect trigger for the connection with the intelligent peripheral component which sends a disconnect message to the prepaid service node, wherein the disconnect message carries the one or more service identifications to the prepaid service node.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 47, wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component further comprises the steps of:

arming one or more call triggers for a communication session that involves the prepaid mobile communication device and the intelligent peripheral component; and

sending the triggered operation to the prepaid service node upon activation of one or more of the one or more call triggers.

20. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

connecting a prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral component to provide one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device; and

sending one or more service identifications in a triggered operation to a prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component;

The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a dialed digits value from the prepaid mobile communication device that initiates a communication session with the intelligent peripheral component; and

sending the dialed digits value to the prepaid service node, wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid service node with an indication of one or more billable activities of the communication session; and

wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprises the step of:



sending the one or more service identifications to the prepaid service node to indicate the one or more billable activities that occurred on the communication session.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 17, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving a service identification that is associated with the prepaid service node;  
comparing an address associated with the service identification and a trigger destination address for a destination to send the service identification;  
determining to not send the service identification to the trigger destination address if the address associated with the service identification is the same as the trigger destination address.

22. (Currently amended) An article, comprising:  
one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;  
means in the one or more media for connecting a prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral component to provide one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device; and  
means in the one or more media for sending one or more service identifications in a triggered operation to a prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component;  
means in the one or more media for receiving a dialed digits value from the prepaid mobile communication device that initiates a communication session with the intelligent peripheral component; and  
means in the one or more media for sending the dialed digits value to the prepaid service node, wherein the digits dialed value does not provide the prepaid service node with an indication of one or more billable activities of the communication session;

wherein the means in the one or more media for sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprising:

means in the one or more media for sending the one or more service identifications to the prepaid service node to indicate the one or more billable activities that occurred on the communication session.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the service comprises a first service provided by the intelligent peripheral component, and wherein the intelligent peripheral component provides a second service to the prepaid mobile communication device during the communication session; and

wherein the service identification comprises a first service identification associated with the first service, and wherein the mobile switching center receives a second service identification associated with the second service from the intelligent peripheral component; and

wherein the mobile switching center sends both the first service identification and the second service identification to the prepaid service node to facilitate calculation of an amount to bill the prepaid mobile communication device for use of the first service and the second service.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:  
connecting a prepaid mobile communication device with an intelligent peripheral  
component to provide one or more services to the prepaid mobile communication device; and  
sending one or more service identifications in a triggered operation to a prepaid  
service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more  
services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component;

~~The method of claim 17,~~ wherein the prepaid service node comprises a first service node, and wherein the intelligent peripheral component is part of a second service node, and wherein the one or more services provided to the prepaid mobile communication device by the second service node comprise a first service and a second service; and

wherein the step of sending the one or more service identifications in the triggered operation to the prepaid service node for billing the prepaid mobile communication device for the one or more services received during connection with the intelligent peripheral component comprises the steps of:

receiving a first service identification associated with the first service from the second service node;

receiving a second service identification associated with the second service from the second service node;

saving indications of the first service identification and the second service identification;

sending the indications of the first service identification and the second service identification to the prepaid service node to facilitate calculation of an amount to bill the prepaid mobile communication device for use of the first service and the second service.

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